

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
PANJAB UNIVERSITY CHANDIGARH

I am glad to inform you that we are organising a **National Seminar on 'Quality of Higher Education in India'** at ICSSR Complex, Panjab University Chandigarh on **March 19, 2018 from 10 am onwards** sponsored by ICSSR NW Regional Centre, Chandigarh.

This seminar will bring together academicians, researchers, private sector practitioners as well as experts in the field of management, public administration and social sciences. I feel honoured in extending you an invite to participate in the above-mentioned Seminar.

With warm regards,

Bharati Garg, PhD
Seminar Coordinator
Assistant Professor
Department of Public Administration
Panjab University,
Chandigarh (160014)

Note: All details regarding the seminar are available on the next page.

CALL FOR PAPERS
Department of Public Administration, Panjab University, Chandigarh
One Day National Seminar on
QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA
(Sponsored by ICSSR North-Western Regional Centre, P.U., Chandigarh)
March 19, 2018 (Monday)

Dear Sir / Madam,

The Department of Public Administration, Panjab University, Chandigarh is organizing a One-day National Seminar in collaboration with ICSSR North-Western Regional Centre, Panjab University, Chandigarh on the theme: **‘Quality of Higher Education in India’** to be held on 19th March, 2018 at Panjab University, Chandigarh.

The role of education, specifically higher education in the socio-economic progress of any nation is well established. Higher education is one of the most effective instruments for promoting social, occupational and economic mobility, growth and equity in the society; and it forms a critical condition for transforming the society into a knowledge society. The quality of knowledge generated within the higher educational institutions, and its availability to the wider economy is becoming increasingly critical to the national competitiveness.

During the times of the Maurya Empire, Indian higher education was a pioneer with world class institutions at Nalanda and Taxilla but this advantage was lost over the centuries and at the hands of a colonial empire. The higher education system after independence expanded, matured, diversified and is ranked third largest after USA and China with its accessibility to all sections of the society and increased enrolments; unfortunately its quality parameters stand neglected. Consequently, the framework of higher education that emerged after seventy years of independence rested on rote learning, restricted creativity and imagination, churning out graduates from the machines of higher educational institutions without requisite skills and research capabilities and low employability. The other quality concerns in higher education include lack of public finance; shortage of academic staff; untrained and demotivated faculty; gap between teaching and research; substandard research; politicization; outdated curriculum and pedagogy; lack of strong linkages with the industry; inefficient and inadequate evaluation system ignoring knowledge and relevance; dwindling infrastructure; increasing role of private players in the provision of higher education; commercialization; and ineffective management structures. The Indian higher education system, which now lags in global rankings, could not capitalize on its demographic dividend.

There is a renewed discussion among the stakeholders to reform the Indian higher education system not just catering to domestic market but focusing on its internationalization. CABE reports on higher education, UGC reports, Reports of National Knowledge Commission and Yashpal Committee among others establish that the Indian higher education system is facing serious and critical challenges that need to be addressed. It requires renovation and rejuvenation to make it world class. The need of the hour is to bring about reforms in the system with a strong focus on establishing effective accreditation and quality assurance mechanisms to make Indian institutions globally competitive institutions of excellence.

With this backdrop, the seminar provides a platform to draw the attention of stakeholders including policy makers, academicians, researchers, industry, government and wider society to

deliberate upon the challenges faced by the Indian higher education system and suggest a roadmap for a more relevant and globally competitive system within the cornerstones of accessibility, equity, affordability and quality.

The Seminar seeks to document and analyse the challenges posed to the quality of higher education in India in the 21st century particularly in the North-western India (Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and the Union Territory of Chandigarh). The observations and analyses of issues will be helpful in providing inputs for future policy research and improving the higher education sector in the country. It is proposed to publish the selected and peer reviewed research papers in the form of a book.

Sub Themes

Research Papers (conceptual or empirical) and case studies are invited on the following sub themes.

1. Quality: A Conceptual Framework
2. Determinants of Quality in Higher Education
3. Quality of Teaching and Research
4. Financing of Higher Education
5. Accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions; Rankings
6. Regulatory Framework of Higher Educational Institutions
7. Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation and Quality of Higher Education
8. Managing Quality in Higher Education including Internal Quality Control
9. Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Learning
10. Governance of Higher Education Institutions
11. Curriculum and Pedagogy
12. Capacity Building for Teaching and Research
13. Internationalisation of Higher Education
14. Evaluation: Teacher and Student

The themes are suggestive and can be extended to related areas. A comparative perspective across public and private and across international systems of higher education is encouraged to enrich the deliberations.

Submission Guidelines for Abstract and Paper

The abstract (not more than 350 words) can be emailed to publicadmnseminar2018@gmail.com and bharatig@pu.ac.in. The contents of the abstract shall comprise of:

- Author(s) names, affiliation(s), and email address(es)
- Paper title
- Significance of the work
- Research questions / Objectives
- Research Methodology
- Preliminary findings (if any)
- Suggestions/Policy Prescriptions

The abstract shall be typed in MS Word, Times New Roman with 1.5 line spaces on A4 size page.

Criteria for Selecting an Abstract

The abstracts submitted by the authors will be scrutinized by the Screening Committee. The Screening Committee will select the abstract on the following guidelines:

1. congruence of the abstract with the theme and sub themes of the Seminar,
2. methodological rigour;
3. quality of findings; and
4. relevance of the suggestions/policy recommendations to the theme/sub-themes.

The selected contributors will have to submit the final paper (around 5000 words). The paper should include the abstract and brief bio-data of the paper presenter. APA style of referencing should be strictly followed for references. All selected papers will be published in Seminar proceedings.

Important Dates to Remember

Last Date for Submission of Abstracts: February 15, 2018

Date for Communication to Selected Abstracts: February 22, 2018

Last Date for Submission of Full papers: March 12, 2018

Guidelines for Registration and Accommodation

The authors of the selected abstracts shall register for the seminar within one week of receipt of Letter of Acceptance by posting a cheque of applicable amount in favour of The Chairperson, Department of Public Administration, Arts Block III, First Floor, Panjab University, Chandigarh-160014. In case of joint-authorship with two or more authors, all authors have to compulsorily register for the conference and be in attendance during the presentation to get the certificate of paper presentation. On the spot registration is permitted only for the participants. Registration rates are as per the following:

Registration Fee for Teaching Professionals: Rs. 1000/-

Registration Fee for Paid Research Scholars: Rs. 700/-

Registration Fee for Non-Paid Research Scholars: Rs. 500/-

Registered participants will be provided with conference kit, tea/ coffee, working lunch on the day of conference.

Limited accommodation will be available for outstation participants on first-cum-first-served basis with prior request. Accommodation request shall be intimated by 15th March, 2018.

Venue: ICSSR North-Western Regional Centre, Panjab University, Chandigarh

CONTACT PERSONS:

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